

Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education

Weekly Communication: 3rd February 2022

Reflection: Reflection on a finger labyrinth



If you've ever run your fingers round the grooves of a finger labyrinth with your eyes closed, you may have run into the same problem I do. I keep trying to go my own way. I think I can predict the twists and turns, but again and again my fingers keep running into wooden ridges that feel like walls. Flow is impossible. Frustration reigns.

Life can be like that can't it? The journey is long, full of curves in the road we were not expecting. The things we run into feel like frustrating interruptions, barriers to progress and the destination.

But perhaps the lesson of the labyrinth is this: our purpose is not to carve the labyrinth, submitting life to our will. Our purpose is to walk the path that presents itself, being present here and now in the journey. Prayerful presence, so that when the unexpected curves come, we can stay in the groove and flow right round them.

Vanessa

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

[Thomas Merton, 'Thoughts in Solitude']

❖ JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED THE EMAIL WHICH WAS CIRCULATED ON FRIDAY 28TH JANUARY ❖

Dear Headteacher

I'm writing to give you the sad news that Vanessa has, after much prayer and a number of conversations, decided to resign as DDE. I'm sure that, like me, you will be both very sad to hear this news, and also glad to have benefitted from Vanessa's leadership of the DBE for the last two years. The press release is available on the Diocesan website.

In that release you will see some words of appreciation from me and +James to Vanessa, and no doubt we will have more time to say such things publicly. In the meantime, I know Vanessa and Charlotte as well as the wider DBE team are available to you if you'd like a conversation at some point.



God has been very gracious to us in providing Vanessa to lead with warmth through such a difficult context. I have very much enjoyed working with her, as I know you each have too. And as we thank our Father for that blessing, we trust his goodness moving forwards too.

This comes with my thanks, and prayers, as ever,
Andrew

Rev. Canon Andrew Towner
Vicar, Houghton & Kingmoor
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Vanessa is very grateful for all the warm wishes she has already received from many of you. Thank you.

Training:



Coming up this next half term:

New and Acting Headteachers Induction Programme: Wednesday 23rd February at 1pm

Peer Support Network for Headteachers: Monday 28th February at 1.30pm or Tuesday 1st March at 10am

Effective RE Governance: Thursday 10th March at 4pm

Preparing for a SIAMS Inspection: Thursday 17th March at 4pm

New and Acting Headteachers Induction Programme: Wednesday 23rd March at 1pm

NEW COURSE Spiritual Development (*how to plan for it and evidence success in an inspection*) Wednesday 23rd March at 4pm

Simply email education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk to join any of our courses or events.

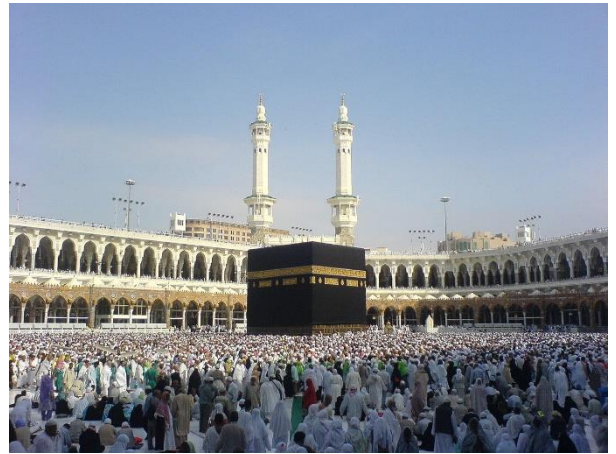
There's always lots going on. Don't forget to keep an eye on our [Events Programme](#).

Support for teaching Islam

A message from Imran Kotwal

"I recently delivered a number of Islam CPD courses virtually to Primary RE teachers - the recordings are now available to help teachers develop their subject knowledge and confidence in teaching Islam.

If you would like a live virtual session on any of the topics below just for Primary RE leads I'm happy to facilitate.



There are 5 Teaching and Learning about Islam courses:

1. **The 5 Pillars of Islam**
2. **The 6 Articles of Faith**
3. **What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain Today? Includes Islamophobia**
4. **Islamic Artefacts / Special Objects in Islam**
5. **How to use the Qur'an in your planning and teaching.**

Please see the attached flyer for more information about the content and how to access the recordings or [CLICK HERE](#) to go directly to the booking form.

Any problems, please email Imran@muslimlearnerservices.org



Church of England NPQs

This short video answers many of the questions we are regularly asked about NPQs – which one is right for teachers and leaders at different stages of their career and with different responsibilities? Who is delivering the courses in our Area? Do have a look. Even if you aren't thinking of a qualification for yourself right now, you may be struck by one of them which might be relevant for a colleague or a friend.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Chris Boucetta:

siochrisb@thegoodshepherdmat.co.uk

Heads Huddle:

Heads Huddle is a weekly opportunity to meet with fellow school leaders and members of the Diocesan Education Team in a relaxed and informal online chat.

Please do join us to share the highs and lows of the week; to take a moment for reflection; to enjoy some mutual support; to ask any questions on your mind; and to receive any updates available.



We'd love to see you at 3.45pm on Tuesdays whenever you can make it.

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88350734545?pwd=aEFSQlk3Wm5qK2FWNk8wSoxVNC84dz09&from=addon>

Inclusion Corner:



We've got a new look newsletter! 

EDUCATION

Behind the scenes we are busy working with education experts as we prepare to launch a new suite of brilliant bitesize programmes to support tangible and lasting anti-racism in educational settings.

[Educators can register their interest here.](#)

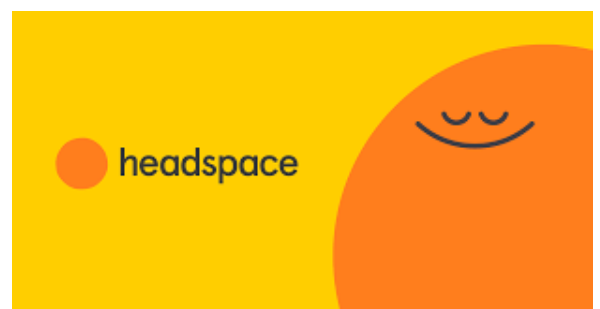
In the meantime, we're coming to the end of an in depth pilot scheme with 30 Cumbrian schools. Upon completion we'll be feeding back our findings to Cumbria County Council, and planning the next stages of our Transforming Education programme.

"The work of Anti Racist Cumbria challenges schools to consider their curriculum, language and culture. While not an easy journey for a school to take, this is both timely and essential as the current generation of children in our schools needs to be fully equipped and fully informed to help shape a better world for all". – Cumbrian Primary School Headteacher

Wellbeing Corner: Headspace



Head space is probably something most of you feel is in short supply; in fact, I can imagine that for the significant majority of you, the opportunity to rent out an additional brain for the day in order to increase storage would be a blessing. Sadly, unlike the option to purchase additional Cloud storage on our phones when we have maxed out the potential, that luxury is not on the table. The truth is, however, there is a need to clear some mental space or what should be compartmentalised for work will spill over into the time that should be for family, sleep, what you might enjoy doing for yourself and so on. In a situation where it is not possible to let go of all of the plates that need to be kept spinning, it becomes a case of finding strategies to help manage the reality.



Headspace is both a website and app that can be placed on a phone or tablet; it is a bank of multiple meditations and resources to support various aspects of wellbeing including sleep, mindfulness, managing anxiety and so on.

Typically a monthly subscription fee is involved; however, having researched the website, there does seem to be an offer of free access for people working in education including schools within the UK: you will find the link to this below. This could be well worth investigating; likewise, the website itself has a range of downloadable material that is worth exploring.

[Headspace offer for schools](#)

**Pam Weeden, Diocesan School Consultant
Executive Coach**

SIAMS Update

The attached SIAMS documents have been updated over recent weeks and the revised versions are now available on the [SIAMS pages](#) of the Church of England website.



Please ensure that your team members and schools know that some minor changes have been made and that they have access to the documents.

You will see that we have clarified some aspects of procedure, especially in relation to the informal stage of raising an appeal and to our guidance on self-evaluation.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch on the below email address.

Kind regards

Natasha

Natasha Skinner

SIAMS Admin Officer | SIAMS Team

E: SIAMS@churchofengland.org

E: SIAMAdmin@churchofengland.org



The Northern Young Leaders Project



The Northern Young Leaders Project is an exciting internship. We are looking for six young adults from the UK (aged 18-30) interested in exploring their calling and vocation, through a year volunteering in churches, parishes and pioneer projects across Cumbria. You will join with interns from across the world who come on a mission exchange here Cumbria. The internship begins at the end of August 2022, running for 11 months.

This is part of the national Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme in the Diocese of Carlisle, it's FREE to join and offers you:

- Experience in parish ministry and community engagement
- Experience of pioneering mission and fresh expression
- Ten days induction, theological and cross cultural training hosted by the Norwegian Mission Society in Norway
- Six day debrief with the Norwegian Mission Society in Spain (flights and accommodation for both trips are on us)
- Discipleship in church leadership and missional living
- Opportunity to engage with interns who are serving in Cumbria from around the world
- Teaching in theology and mission
- Engagement and input with the vocations team within Carlisle Diocese
- Full board and living allowance - and much more!

❖ SEE ATTACHED INFORMATION ❖



Picture News

If you've never seen Picture News before, you might want to have a look whilst they currently have a 4-week trial on offer free of charge.

Picture News (as the name suggests) brings to life, through pictures, thought provoking news, issues, topics or themes.

There are follow up, age appropriate 'big questions' for each Key Stage.

They have just launched their new format. A sample is attached. You can find out more [here](#)

Picture News Collective Worship Webinar:

"I wanted to let you know about our upcoming collective worship webinar in a couple of weeks (this session is already nearly full!). The session will be led by the author of Picture News collective worship and executive head Antony David and will cover the format of the new resource and explore how to use it. All attendees will also receive a CPD certificate of attendance."

Platinum Jubilee Pudding:

"Ahead of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the 6th February (which Friday's pack will explore further), I wanted to give you a heads up that the pack will explore the Fortnum and Mason pudding competition. As the closing date is 4th February for entries and you may wish to enter, it may be of benefit to have the guidance earlier in the week. Full details on the pudding competition can be [found here](#)."



The Schools' Labyrinth Project – super exciting!

We were delighted to welcome Canon Benjamin from the Cathedral to share news of the Schools' Labyrinth project as part of the cathedral's 900th anniversary 'Journey and Rest' celebrations. Huddlers had the opportunity to ask questions about the project and hear about the recent successful pilot at Blackford school. Our heartfelt thanks to Linda and the community there for embracing the day!

We would love for every church school in the Diocese to be represented in the labyrinth art installation we are creating. Further details are in my letter below. There is still time for your school to be involved – please do express your interest with Morven and we will take it from there!



If you have a vacancy you would like to advertise here, don't hesitate to send it to charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk. I aim to send out the weekly communication each Thursday so any 'copy' would need to be with me by Wednesday evening (or early Thursday morning) to make it into that week's edition.

CALLING ALL CLERKS

We currently have a number of schools looking for a Clerk to Governors. If you know anyone who might be prepared to take on this crucial role or to add another school to their portfolio, please contact Morven: education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



Lazonby School is currently looking to recruit a part-time SENCo.

If you know someone who might be interested, please ask them to contact: andrew@lazonby.cumbria.sch.uk for more info

HEADTEACHER VACANCIES

The following church of England Schools are currently advertising for a new Headteacher:

- ❖ Gosforth
- ❖ St Michael's, Dalston
- ❖ Seaton St Paul's
- ❖ Captain Shaw's

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this week's communication, don't hesitate to get in touch:

Charlotte Tudway
Deputy Director of Education
charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk
www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education
07917 993659

